

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Postal Service officials have announced that they signed a new lease for the Aromas Post Office, allowing the location to remain open and continue full service.

"This is a fantastic resolution and I thank all the Postal Service staff members and community supporters who worked so hard to keep this Post Office open," said **Congressman Sam Farr**

(D-Carmel). "The Post Office never wanted to leave this location and the community worked hard to keep it here. With this new lease, we have a win-win situation."

The site at 368 Blohm Avenue will retain all its current services including retail and delivery. Postmaster Ray Furuta and his staff will also remain at the location.

"We apologize to the community for what seemed to be an endless negotiation process to resolve the issue of postal presence in Aromas," said **Kim Fernandez**, Bay-Valley district manager for the U.S. Postal Service. "We understand the importance that a Post Office has in a community and how it forms the core identity for every community in America. It is for that reason we wanted to make sure our solution would be the best for the community of Aromas, and now we feel we have met that promise."

The Aromas community is the only "Census Designated Place" in California that includes portions of three counties: Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz.

"I'm thrilled. This is the best example of citizen involvement to make things happen in their community," said **Anthony Botelho**, San Benito County 2nd district supervisor. "Supervisor Calcagno and I presented resolutions in support of the Aromas Post Office, but I especially thank Congressman Farr for his leadership, showing the importance of the Community Post Office to the official of the United States Postal Service."

"There is no doubt that the closure of the U.S. Post Office in Aromas would have been disruptive to the citizens of the area, not only with respect to the postal services on which they heavily depend, but also to their rural lifestyle, which is unique to this close knit tri-county

community," said **Louis Calcagno**, Monterey County 2nd district supervisor. "I commend Congressman Farr and his staff, as well as the U.S. Postal Service, for resolving this complicated issue to the satisfaction of all concerned."

Citizens of Aromas rallied around the Post Office, holding a town hall meeting in March with more than 250 residents and Postal Service officials. More than 700 signatures were collected in support of the Post Office.

"The Aromas Community is extraordinarily grateful for Congressman Farr's advocacy on behalf of the total community that enabled the community to keep the heart of the Community's Civic Center, the United States Post Office," said Pat Lerman, a resident of Aromas who led the effort to keep the Post Office open.

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